

Message Text

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44

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 ERDA-07

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FROM ICRC USDEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, ICRC

SUBJ: CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS,

LUGANO- FINAL REPORTING CABLE

1. CONFERENCE CONCLUDED 26 FEBRUARY FOLLOWING FOUR DAYS OF HAGGLING OVER REPORTS. SWedes had attempted in Bureau to eliminate altogether those parts of rapporteur's draft report which dealt with consideration of specific categories of weapons, and in effect to substitute summary given by chairman of General Working Group (KUSSBACK of Austria). When this failed due to Western resistance, Swedes and non-aligned insisted on lengthy additions and amendments to draft report to reflect all points of view expressed at each stage. Report is therefore long and tedious but, as they say, balanced.

2. DEBATE IN FINAL WEEK PRODUCED FURTHER REACTIONS TO NETHERLANDS PROPOSAL ON RESTRICTION OF AIR-DELIVERED FLAME WEAPONS IN POPULATED AREAS. SEVERAL WESTERN UNCLASSIFIED

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EXPERTS (INCLUDING NORWAY, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND,

IRELAND AND DENMARK) EXPRESSED VARYING DEGREES OF SUPPORT FOR PROPOSAL, WHILE OTHER WESTERN EXPERTS (UK, ITALY AND CANADA) WERE COMPLIMENTARY BUT EXPRESSED INABILITY TO SUPPORT AT THIS TIME. SEVERAL OTHERS, INCLUDING USSR AND SWITZERLAND, WELCOMED IT AS FIRST STEP. SWEDES SUGGESTED IN TURN THAT MORE MEANINGFUL PACKAGE MIGHT BE TOTAL PROHIBITION OF FLAME WEAPONS IN FIVE YEARS PLUS IMMEDIATE PROHIBITION OF MASS ATTACKS ON URBAN AREAS BY ANY INCENDIARIES.BRUNGART

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